

QUERY CONTROL FORM		RTIS USE ONLY	
Application No. <u>09/432,469</u>	Prepared by <u>ewc</u>	Tracking Number <u>059/7238</u>	
Examiner-GAU <u>Le</u>	Date <u>4/12/04</u>	Week Date <u>3/08/04</u>	
<u>2876</u>	No. of queries <u>- 1 -</u>	<u>IFW</u>	

JACKET			
a. Serial No.	f. Foreign Priority	k. Print Claim(s)	p. PTO-1449
b. Applicant(s)	g. Disclaimer	l. Print Fig.	q. PTOL-85b
c. Continuing Data	h. Microfiche Appendix	m. Searched Column	r. Abstract
d. PCT	i. Title	n. PTO-270/328	s. Sheets/Figs
e. Domestic Priority	j. Claims Allowed	o. PTO-892	t. Other

SPECIFICATION	MESSAGE
a. Page Missing	<p><i>Original claim 6 depends upon original claim 6.</i></p> <p><i>Please advise</i></p> <p><i>Thank you</i></p> <p><i>ewc</i></p>
b. Text Continuity	
c. Holes through Data	
d. Other Missing Text	
e. Illegible Text	
f. Duplicate Text	
g. Brief Description	
h. Sequence Listing	
i. Appendix	
j. Amendments	
k. Other	
CLAIMS	
a. Claim(s) Missing	
b. Improper Dependency	
c. Duplicate Numbers	
d. Incorrect Numbering	
e. Index Disagrees	
f. Punctuation	
g. Amendments	
h. Bracketing	
i. Missing Text	
j. Duplicate Text	
k. Other	
	initials
	RESPONSE <i>Please refer to the Original claim 6 as filed + amended.</i>
	<i>Claims as shown in Claim PTO form was arrived at using OCR which is not entirely correct.</i>
	<i>WTM</i>
	initials

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system of controlling the distribution of pills between a manufacturer and a consumer, said system comprising:
 - a machine-readable code on a surface of each of said pills, said code conveying information relating to one of lot number, date of manufacture, date of expiration, manufacturer, location of manufacturer, and National Drug Code number;
 - and
 - a scanner adapted to read said machine-readable code of said at least one of said pills ~~so that information conveyed by said code may be interpreted; and~~ ^{A scanner arranged to scan} ~~means for scanning~~ said at least one of said pills during the distribution between said manufacturer and said consumer ~~so that said scanned pill may be identified according to said interpreted information, and its distribution thereby controlled.~~
2. A pill containing a drug and having a surface, said pill comprising:
 - a machine-readable code located on said surface, said code relating to one of drug information, manufacturing information, and contraindications of the drug.
3. ^A ~~The~~ pill according to claim 2, wherein said pill includes a transparent layer defining an outer surface and an inner surface, said code being located on said inner surface so that said code may be machine-read through said transparent layer.

1 4. The pill according to claim 2, wherein said pill has an outer surface
2 that is generally rough and porous and defines a total surface area, said pill including a
3 code-receiving region, said code-receiving region including a layer of material made from
4 one of gelatin, keratin, collagen wax, sugar, protein, plastic, and sugar-based composition,
5 said code-receiving region having a surface area that is less than said total surface area of
6 said pill.

1 6. ^A~~The~~ pill according to claim 2, wherein said machine-readable code is
2 a 2-dimensional, high-density bar code matrix.

1 7. ^A~~The~~ pill according to claim 6, wherein said 2-dimensional, high-
2 density bar code matrix is PDF-417 type bar code.

1 8. ^{according to claim 1}~~A pill having a machine-readable code thereon,~~ the code having a
2 coded pattern that is too difficult for an unaided human eye after glancing the coded
3 pattern to discern differences within the coded pattern that may distinguish the coded
4 pattern from others of the same type.

1 9. A pill as in claim 8, wherein the coded pattern lacks alphanumeric
2 characters.

1 10. A pill as in claim 8, further comprising a label on which is printed the
2 machine readable code, said label being on a body of the pill.

1 11. A pill as in claim 8, wherein the pill is any one of a tablet and capsule.

1 12. A pill as in claim 8, wherein the code is of a dimension that is at most
2 one-tenth a size of a standard UPC bar code.

1 13. A process for applying a bar code to a surface of a pill, comprising
2 the steps of:

- 3 a) providing a thin sheet of biocompatible material;
4 b) applying said code onto one surface of said thin sheet; and
5 c) adhering said thin sheet to said surface of said pill.

6 14. The process for applying a bar code to a surface of a pill, according
7 to claim 13, wherein the step of applying includes printing said code onto said one
8 surface.

1 15. The process for applying a bar code to a surface of a pill, according
2 to claim 13, wherein the step of applying includes embossing said code into said one
3 surface.

16. The process for applying a bar code to a surface of a pill according to claim 13, wherein the step of providing a thin sheet of biocompatible material includes providing a thin layer of gelatin mounted on a release sheet and said further including a step of removing said release sheet from said gelatin so that said gelatin remains adhered to said one surface of said pill.

17. The process for applying a bar code to a surface of a pill according to claim 16, wherein said adhering step includes applying water to one of said one surface and said gelatin layer.

18. A method of avoiding confusion between pills, comprising the steps of:
reading a machine readable code on a pill with a reader wherein the machine readable code includes a coded pattern that is too difficult for an unaided human eye after glancing the coded pattern to discern differences within the coded pattern that may distinguish the coded pattern from others of the same type; and
identifying any one of a source, distributor, and contents of the pill based on the step of reading.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein the code is read from a label on the pill.

1 20. A method as in claim 18, wherein the code is read from an imprint
2 directly on the pill.

1 21. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 determining the distributor of the pill for purposes of tracking gray goods.

1 22. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the contents while reading the code on pills having any one of a same shape
3 and a same color.

1 23. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the source of a plurality of pills within a common container for purposes of
3 determining whether all came from a common source.

1 24. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the source for purposes of distinguishing between a brand name supplier and
3 a generic supplier of the pills.

1 25. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the contents for purposes of conducting clinical trials.

1 26. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the contents of successive pills and make an indication if taking the successive
3 pills at the same time would cause the medication each contains to chemically react with
4 any one of each other and the body environment in a medically undesirable manner.

1 27. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the contents for purposes of sorting medication of different contents.

1 28. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of identifying includes
2 identifying the contents for the purpose of making a medical evaluation of a person
3 taking the pill.

1 29. A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of reading is carried out
2 with a scanner that emits a laser beam to strike on an area of the machined readable
3 code.

1 30. A method as in claim 18, further comprising the step of recording a
2 timing of the step of reading and storing in a data base information containing the
3 timing and that which was read during the step of reading.

1 31. A method as in claim 30, further concerning the step of reading a
2 further coded pattern indicative of nutrition and diet and storing the further coded
3 pattern in the data base.

1 32. A method of efficacy record keeping, comprising the steps of:
2 (a)) scanning a coded pattern from which medication contents may be
3 correlated;
4 (b) clocking a time of day that the scanning is carried out;
5 (c) further scanning of other coded patterns from which nutritional items
6 may be correlated;
7 (d) clocking the step of further scanning;
8 (e) signaling commencement and ending of efficacy of the medication;
9 (f) clocking the step of signaling; and
10 (g) storing results of steps (a) to (f).

1 33. A method as in claim 32, further comprising the step of deriving the
2 medication contents and the food items from the stored results of step (g) based on
3 correlating with information in a data base; and retrieving the results from step (g)
4 timing information corresponding to that which was clocked.

1 34. A method as in claim 32, further comprising the steps of evaluating
2 steps (a) to (g) for a situation that is less than optimal for a duration of efficacy of the
3 medication and indicating a warning in response to finding the situation as a result of the
4 step of evaluating.

1 35. A method of conducting a clinical trial of pills, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a plurality of pills each having an alpha-numeric code readable
3 with an unaided eye and a machine readable code that too difficult for an unaided
4 human eye after glancing of the coded pattern to discern differences within the coded
5 pattern that may distinguish the coded pattern from others of the same type, said
6 patterns being different on a group of the pills and the alpha-numeric code being
7 identical on said group of the pills; and
8 scanning the machine readable code to determine whether the pills being
9 scanned at any given time is a placebo.

1 36. A method of conducting a clinical trial of pills, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a plurality of pills each within a package, at least one of the
3 package and the pill having an alpha-numeric code readable with an unaided eye and a
4 machine readable code whose patterns fail to be discernable from a glance with the
5 unaided eye to distinguish over those of a same type, said patterns that are associated
6 with a group of said pills being different from each other and the alpha-numeric codes
7 that are associated with said group of the pills being identical with each other; and

8 scanning the machine readable code to determine whether any of the pills
9 within the packages being scanned at any given time is a placebo.

1 37. A method of manufacturing a pill having medication contents,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 forming the pill by layers one atop the other, the layers including an inner
4 layer, an outer layer and an intermediate layer between the inner and outer layers, the
5 step of forming including forming the intermediate layer by printing with a substance
6 that is edible and digestible.

38. A method as in claim 37, wherein the step of printing with the
substance forms part of the medication contents.

39. A method as in claim 37, wherein the printing arranges the substance
in a manner that is machine readable code.

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 line 8 cancel "so that information conveyed by said code may be interpreted"

line 9 change "means for scanning" to - a scanner arranged to scan -,
cancel "the"

line 10 cancel "so that said scanned pill may be identified"

line 11 cancel "according to said interpreted information, and its distribution thereby controlled".

Claims 3-7 line 1, change "The" to - A --

Claim 8 line 1, change "having a machine readable code thereon" to - according to claim 1 --

Claims 10 and 12 line 1, change "8" to - 1 --

Add the following claims:

-- 40. A method of obtaining information concerning a pill, comprising the steps
of:

scanning a bar code on a surface of the pill to obtain a result;

accessing a database in response to the result being obtained from the
scanning of the bar code;

searching the database for a correlation with the result;

making an indication based on the correlation to provide information
concerning the pill; and

making a determination with respect to suitability for administration of the pill based on the information. --

-- 41. A method as in claim 40, further comprising:

ascertaining from the information a likelihood as to whether the pill has been subjected to any one of tampering, unauthorized repackaging and unauthorized gray market entry. --

-- 42. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the step of detecting a presence or absence of a further code that is incorporated within the bar code, and based on the detecting, making a further indication.

-- 43. A method as in claim 40, comprising the steps of:

in response to the determination being favorable, administering the pill for consumption. --

-- 44. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the step of:

comparing the information with previously retrieved information to ascertain whether a combination of pills taken one after the other may cause ill effects, the indication reflecting what was ascertained from the comparing. --

– 45. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

clocking a time of day as the scanning occurs; and

storing in memory the time of day and the information in a manner that associates them together in response to completion of the steps of retrieving and clocking. –

-- 46. A method as in claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

making an indication that signifies whether an efficacy condition of the pill is effective or ineffective;

further clocking a time of day corresponding to when the indication was made; and

further storing the further clocking of the time of day in association with the efficacy condition. --

-- 47. A method as in claim 46, further comprising the steps of further scanning a

further bar code associated with a nutritional substance to be consumed,

accessing a further database in response to the further scanning of the bar code;

finding a further correlation to the scanned further bar code in a further database by

making a further comparison;

retrieving further information from the further database that is associated with the

further correlation in response to the step of finding the further correlation; and

further clocking a further time of day corresponding to when the scanned further bar code of the nutritional substance was made, storing the further time of day and the further information in association with each other. --

-- 48. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the steps of
scanning a further bar code on a container of the pill;
comparing the scanned further bar code and the result for a match;
making an indication of the match in response to completion of the step of
comparing. --

-- 49. A method as in claim 40, further comprising:
prior to scanning, selecting the pill to be dispensed from a dispensing machine,
obtaining authorization information to authorize dispensing the pill from the
dispensing machine,
verifying the authorization information; and
dispensing the selected pill provided the authorization information was verified. --

-- 50. An apparatus to dispense pills, comprising:
a dispensing machine configured to obtain authorization information to
authorize dispensing a pill,
a verifier of the authorization information;
a selector of the pill to be dispensed,
a scanner of a bar code on the selected pill, and